



Presentation Title

FOSTERING JOY: Connecting Families, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Leaders, and Professionals; Communicating about Joy and Resilience; & Collaborating to Support Child Family Interactions

Keynote Presenter

Emily Burke, Hands & Voices HQ, D/HH Infusion Coordinator, Deaf Parent
Candace Lindow-Davies, Hands & Voices HQ, Director of Outreach, Plus Parent
Amy Szarkowski, The Institute, Director, Psychologist

Abstract:

Fostering Joy supports the deliberate and conscious practice of looking for and encouraging joyful moments between families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH). Families, professionals, and D/HH leaders are invited to collectively shift from “mitigating the challenges of raising and supporting children who are D/HH” to intentionally celebrating children who are D/HH, their growth, and the many positive impacts they have on our lives. The *Fostering Joy* movement recognizes that pleasurable, loving family-child connections are essential and strives to support these at its core. Through the sharing of their own lived experiences and backgrounds, the presenters will describe how an emphasis on joy influences their FCEI-D/HH related work in their respective roles as a parent leader, a D/HH leader, and a professional, and as individuals. This presentation will explore cultural implications of “joy” and will offer ideas for applications of *Fostering Joy* that can be useful around the globe. Informed by science, this presentation will provide information about the practice of intentionally focusing on joy and gratitude. Actionable steps to increase one’s attention to joy will be shared. Leave feeling inspired to pursue and encourage joy in your life, your work, and your collaborative efforts. Become a Joy Ambassador and join the international joy movement!



Overall Goals/Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe a minimum of 2 reasons why “fostering joy” can be useful to families with children who are D/HH (including children who are D/HH and have disabilities or “D/HH Plus”).
2. List at least 2 “science-based facts” about joy.
3. Identify 2 or more “action steps” that he/she/they might take to increase joyful interactions between families and their children who are D/HH, whether family members, D/HH leaders, and/or professionals.